



**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
One Corliss Park  
Providence, RI 02908

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**MEETING MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** August 2, 2011

**Time:** 6:00PM

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:**

**Interpreters:** Carol Fay, Jon Henry and Maureen McEntee

**Cart:** Shelley Deming

**RIDE:**

**Attorney:** Sara Rapport

**Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:20 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

**Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

- a. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Amy Donnelly-Roche, Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson
- b. **Excused:** Iraida Williams, Jodi Merryman, Angelo Garcia (thought to arrive late)

**Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Litigation - CBA**

- a. **MOVED Amy Donnelly Roche AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:20 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED Westley Resendes AND SECONDED Amy Donnelly Roche:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:30 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED Marie Lynch AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

**Motions from Executive Session: None**

**Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

June 19, 2011 - Tabled

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Member noted that seven of his professional colleagues visited the school escorted by Dinaz Adenwalla, Sean Gill and Kelly Butterworth – he wanted to thank them for providing his friends with the tour and information – they were extremely impressed with the school.

## Reports

- **Chair:** Noted that there is still a lot to be done in regard to contacting stakeholders to provide information on Transformation, LOI and timeline for reform. Separate letters will be sent out to the parents, school districts, and community providers to provide them an update on RISD's current situation going into the new school year. Referred members to Jennifer Smith's letter...who is still working on job description for Director position; transformation position posted for 28 days – hope is to identify someone by middle of September; must select most appropriate candidate with experience in deaf education. We have a vacancy for an English teacher and Athletic Director; history teacher coming in from Colorado. Further, there is a vacancy on the Board; Marie contacted Sally for help with finding board members; Travis noted that standing committees – policy, personnel and budget – need to be formed.  
**Mary Pendergast** is working closely with Sean Gill on Outreach; sending letter to school districts to offer our services to all; working hard on schedule.  
**Members** voiced concerns about Outreach – currently Mr. Gill is the only Outreach person – members feel that, in light of the Mission Statement and goals, key would be to have interaction throughout the state and districts, expanding Outreach.
  - **Association of RI School Committees –**  
As previously discussed, Amy Donnelly Roche will sign us up as part of support group.
- **Interim Administration/Transformation Team –** (Mary Pendergast not at meeting and Dinaz Adenwalla was not able to report.)
  - **Summer School Progress – 2011/2012 School Year Preparations –** same as above

## Old Business

- RFP / Transformation Team Consultant
  - Update from RIDE – see Jennifer Smith letter
  - Selection process – same
- Board Sub-Committees
  - **Chair** discussed the role of the Executive committee, and the respective roles of the Vice-Chair and the Secretary; presented that the vacancy in the Vice-Chair position needed to be filled, and that Mr. Resendes had already expressed prior interest in the Secretary position held by Dr. Lynch. Dr. Lynch reiterated that she would like to step down from the Secretary position to reduce her duties, and the Chair proposed that she become Vice-Chair due to her prior experience in the Executive committee. Both Mr. Resendes and Dr. Lynch accepted their new positions, and the Members also accepted this via Consensus.
  - **Amy Donnelly-Roche** noted that we need a Health and Wellness policy – and offered to take on the Chair of the Policy Sub-Committee – **Chair:** so moved – Amy is appointed as Chair of the Policy Sub-committee.
  - **Chair and members** discussed the possibility of having sub-committee meetings at work sessions – realizing they have a very full plate with the Transformation Team and bringing in a Consultant; reminding all that it is not a good practice to communicate through email for sub-committees, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act; questions asked

about regulations re number of meetings and sub-committee meetings that must be held; whether or not Budget and Personnel are the same committee; get answers before finalizing committees.

- Transformation Team
  - RISD Director job description – Transformation Team and RIDE working on description.
  - Reform plan timeline – request for extension submitted...
- Groden Center
  - **Corsino Delgado** reported that the lease agreement is on hold right now; RIDE concerned with process used; one job of Transformation Consultant is to provide advice as to other uses of the building.
- Letter to RISD Stakeholders – see page two – still working on composition of letter.
- Student Handbook
  - **Chair** noted that Sara Rapport and Ms. Pendergast have been working on Student Handbook; Corsino Delgado will work with Harvey Corson on Budget – law does not allow us to combine some of the committees, but can merge some topics into ad hoc committees.
  - **Member** noted that he thought that the SH was already approved. Chair noted that, to his recollection, not approved – parts of it, e.g. Bullying issue, not approved. It is under staff review and we will have to run it by Atty Rapport.
    - To be approved at next scheduled Board meeting
- Board of Trustees Vacancy (Deaf Seat)
  - **Member** noted that it is the Board's responsibility to find candidates for trustees; we must focus on the outgoing person's perspective and what they bring to the table. We should use interview questions that RIDE used for us – recommend our choice to the commissioner; find someone who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing with the additional perspective on adults and transition.

#### **Actions taken via Consensus**

- Board Officer Selection – approval  
**Marie Lynch – Vice-Chair** (duties include stepping in for Chair when needed)  
**Westley Resendes – Secretary** (duties include verifying minutes as prepared by Nancy Sousa – to submit a final draft for board approval)  
**Amy Donnelly-Roche – Chair of Policy sub-committee**

#### **New Business**

- Ocean State Network for Children and Families
- Student Performance
  - **Chair** noted that the agenda items of Ocean State Network for Children and Families and Student Performance are tabled until the next meeting due to the absence of Ms. Pendergast; briefly discussed rescheduling work session but will finalize over email.

**Actions Postponed and Possible Work Session Agenda Items**

- Re-Schedule to August 23<sup>rd</sup>? - will contact thru email to reschedule.
- Ocean State Network for Children and Families – not discussed – hold for next meeting
- Student Performance – not discussed – hold for next meeting

**Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.